

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended, and claims 9 and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 5-8, 10, 11-13, 15, 17-22 are now pending in the application.

Applicant has thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein. A Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR §1.114 is submitted herewith.

Discussion of Claim Amendments

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended. Claims 9 and 14 have been cancelled. Upon the entry of the amendments, Claims 1, 5-8, 10, 11-13, 15, 17-22 are pending in this application. The amendments to Claims 1 and 10 are supported, for example, by ¶[0033] of the specification as originally filed. Thus, the amendments to the claims do not introduce any new matter. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 7-10, 12-14, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Kawa et al.* (JP 2002-297309) in view of *Gettemy et al.* (US

7,348,964 B1). These rejections are respectfully traversed. Applicant respectfully submits that there is no motivation or reason to combine *Kawa et al.* and *Gettemy et al.* to arrive at the present invention.

Independent Claims 1 and 10 of the present application recite a notebook computer with a hidden touch pad, comprising: a main portion including a housing, wherein the housing has a first surface and a second surface, a receiving portion formed in the second surface and not exposed to the first surface, and a thickness of the housing that the receiving portion forms therein is thinner than that of the housing that the receiving portion does not form therein; a display connected to the main portion in a rotatable manner; and a touch pad disposed onto the receiving portion; wherein the housing prevents the touch pad from being exposed to an atmosphere outside of the housing, and *a ratio between a thickness of the housing that the receiving portion forms therein and a thickness of the housing that the receiving portion does not form therein is substantially 1/3-1/2. See, e.g., Paragraph 32, 33 and Figure 2d.*

The Office Action states on pages 7 and 8 thereof with regard to previously presented claim 9 that *Kawa et al.* and *Gettemy et al.* fail to teach a notebook computer wherein a ratio between a thickness of the receiving portion and a thickness of a portion, adjacent to the receiving portion, of the housing is about 1/3-1/2. However, the Office Action also states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ such a ratio. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The present invention provides that *a ratio between a thickness of the housing that the receiving portion forms therein and a thickness of the housing that the receiving portion does not form therein is about 1/3-1/2*. That means the present invention has provided *a feature of housing structure* for manufacturing a notebook computer with a hidden touch pad. Using this feature to manufacture the housing can provide not only an adequate structure strength of the housing but also a good sensitivity of the touch pad, while keeping the touch pad unexposed from the housing simultaneously.

As described in the specification *paragraph [0032]* "It is noted that the thickness of the top housing portion **111** at the receiving portion **111a** is thinner than that of a portion adjacent to the receiving portion **111a**, of the top housing portion **111**. Thus, *the touch pad 130 is more sensitive and performance thereof is enhanced*. For example,... ,a ratio of the top housing portion **111** at the receiving portion **11a** to the portion, adjacent to the receiving portion **111a**, of the top housing portion **111** is 1/3-1/2" (*emphasis added*). That is, the claimed invention has provided an optimum thickness ratio that is 1/3-1/2 between a thickness of the housing that the receiving portion forms therein and a thickness of the housing that the receiving portion does not form therein to manufacture the housing to make the touch pad **130** that has enhanced sensitivity and is unexposed from the housing simultaneously. With said specific feature of *housing thickness ratio*, the touch pad **130** is more sensitive and performance thereof is enhanced.

On the other hand, when the standard thickness of the top housing portion **111** is 1.5 mm, an engineer can know that the thickness of the top housing portion **111** at the

receiving portion **111a** may be 0.5-0.75 mm based on the technology feature of housing thickness ration. The engineer also can know that the specific range 0.5-0.75 mm thickness of the receiving portion is an optimal thickness for the sensitive and performance of the touch pad. Therefore, based on this disclosed *specific thickness ratio* of the housing, not only the housing and the touch pad can especially coincide to have a minimized volume plus an adequate structure strength of the housing but also reach a good sensitivity of the touch pad, while keep the touch pad unexposed from the housing simultaneously.

Moreover, Applicant respectively asserts that “a ratio between a thickness of the housing that the receiving portion forms therein and a thickness of the housing that the receiving portion does not form therein is substantially 1/3-1/2” has not been disclosed prior to Applicant’s invention thereof.

Kawa et al. teaches that if the touch pad is an electric capacity-type touch pad, it is possible to operate the trackpad even if the surface layer **54** is thick, and if the touch pad is a pressure-sensitive-type touch pad, it is good to make a thin surface layer **54**. Thus, *Kawa et al.* shows the long-felt need that existed at the time of Applicant’s invention for a notebook with a hidden touch pad. However, *Kawa et al.* only teaches that if the touch pad is a pressure-sensitive-type touch pad, it is good to make a thin surface layer **54**. However, *Kawa et al.* does not teach a thickness ratio between the surface layer **54** that the trackpad forms therein and the surface layer **54** that the trackpad does not form therein. That is based on the teaching of *Kawa et al.* one skilled

in the art still needs to repeatedly run a test to find a best thickness ratio. Furthermore, when following the teaching of *Kawa et al.*, the whole surface layer **54** has to be thinned for improving sensitivity. However, such a design is unfavorable to form a strong structure. Therefore, although *Kawa et al.* shows the long-felt need of a notebook with a hidden touch pad, *Kawa et al.* does not provide favorable features to form such notebook. In contrast, the claimed invention teaches a feature of “a ratio between a thickness of the housing that the receiving portion forms therein and a thickness of the housing that the receiving portion does not form therein is substantially 1/3-1/2”. Using this feature to form a receiving portion results in a minimized volume plus an adequate structural strength of the housing but also a good sensitivity of the touch pad, while keeping the touch pad unexposed from the housing simultaneously.

Accordingly, even if a person of ordinary skill in the art were to make the alleged combination, the resulting combination would still not be “a ratio between a thickness of the housing that the receiving portion forms therein and a thickness of the housing that the receiving portion does not form therein is substantially 1/3-1/2”, because neither *Kawa et al.* nor *Gettemy et al.* disclose the above feature.

Therefore, independent Claims 1 and 10 are patentable over the cited references and in condition for allowance, and an early action to that effect is respectfully solicited. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 5-8, 11-13, 15 and 17-22, which ultimately depend from claims 1 and 10, are likewise patentable and in condition

for allowance. Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is, therefore, respectfully requested.

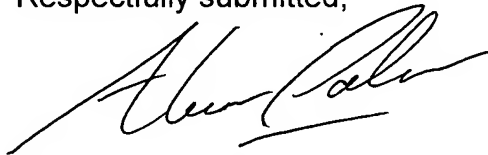
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should the remittance be accidentally missing or insufficient, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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